



Prescribing Information

from the Bedfordshire and Luton Joint
Prescribing Committee

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Number 67

A summary of the Joint Prescribing Committee (JPC) key recommendations¹ following the 20th September 2017 meeting is provided below. The JPC papers from the meeting will be available shortly on the **GP Ref website** [http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/referrals/bedfordshire-and-luton-joint-prescribing-committee-\(jpc\).aspx](http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/referrals/bedfordshire-and-luton-joint-prescribing-committee-(jpc).aspx)

BULLETIN / PAPER	RECOMMENDATIONS / INFORMATION
PRIMARY CARE OR INTERFACE PRESCRIBING ISSUES	
<p>FreeStyle Libre®</p> <p><i>“Bulletin and interim recommendations ratified”</i></p>	<p>The JPC supported the East of England Priority Advisory Committee bulletin and the following interim recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The routine use of FreeStyle Libre® for all patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes is not recommended. 2. FreeStyle Libre® has not been demonstrated to be cost-effective and in the absence of a positive recommendation from a full technology appraisal (TA), produced and published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), is not recommended for routine funding in primary care. 3. This recommendation will be reviewed in the light of new evidence to support the cost-effective use of FreeStyle Libre® <p>The JPC concluded that more work was required to establish which patient groups could potentially benefit from this technology. It was therefore agreed that the above interim recommendations would be retained pending ongoing discussions with Diabetology Specialists at a regional level.</p>
<p>Osteoporosis Treatment Guideline</p> <p><i>“Guideline updated in line with NICE TAs”</i></p>	<p>As advised in the previous newsletter, the JPC had agreed to an updated draft of the Osteoporosis Treatment Guideline at the June 2017 meeting. In August 2017, NICE issued a new Technology Appraisal Guidance (TA464) – Bisphosphonates for treating osteoporosis and updated existing Technology Appraisal Guidance (TA 160 and 161) As a result, the guideline required amendments before issue. The guideline has been updated in line with the NICE TAs and approved by the JPC.</p>
<p>Ketamine Shared Care Guidelines</p> <p><i>“New SCG approved”</i></p>	<p>Following a request from the BCCG Prescribing Committee & discussion with GPs the JPC discussed and agreed a shared care guideline (SCG) for the use of ketamine in the palliative care setting.</p>
<p>Brivaracetam for Epilepsy</p> <p><i>“New drug approval”</i></p>	<p>The JPC supported the brivaracetam bulletin and following recommendations:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brivaracetam is supported for use within its marketing authorisation (as an adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial-onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation in adult and adolescent patients from 16 years of age with epilepsy) in patients who have refractory epilepsy and are intolerant to levetiracetam (prescribed as the generic preparation) or have co-morbidities/receiving interacting medication which would preclude its use. • Treatment must be initiated by the specialist Neurology service and may be continued by GPs.

¹ The recommendations have been ratified by BCCG but are interim and awaiting formal ratification by LCCG Clinical Commissioning Committee

<p>Wound Care Formulary Update</p> <p><i>“Additions to the Formulary approved and information on prescribing of lymphoedema garments noted”</i></p>	<p>The JPC ratified the Wound Care Formulary Group approval of the updated EPUT Leg ulcer policy. This will be added to microguide.</p> <p>The following information from the Wound Care Formulary Group was noted for information:-</p> <p>The Bedfordshire and Luton lymphoedema nurses and TVNs follow the British Lymphoedema Pathway and in addition:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of garments is initiated by Lymphoedema service or Leg Ulcer service only. • Recommendations are for 2 sets of garments to be prescribed per patient and these last 3-6 months or 100 washes per set. • There is a large variety of garments needed because of the individual needs of the patients, therefore there are no specific brands as this is left to the TVN's judgement and knowledge.
<p>Buccal Midazolam Update</p> <p><i>“No change to recommendations”</i></p>	<p>The Committee discussed the availability of the licensed preparation of Epistatus® but agreed to continue to support the existing JPC recommendations (use of the Buccolam® preparation of buccal midazolam):-</p> <p>http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/media/147044/advguid_buccalmidazolamupdateincswitchingalgorithm_apr16.pdf</p>
<p>Denosumab</p> <p><i>“GP information sheet updated”</i></p>	<p>The Committee approved an updated and reformatted version of the denosumab GP information sheet following the issue of the latest MHRA warnings.</p>
<p>Alemtuzumab SCG</p> <p><i>“Updated SCG approved”</i></p>	<p>A few minor clarifications to the updated Alemtuzumab Shared Care Guideline (SCG) document were passed to the authors (Cambridge University Hospital Trust). Subject to the necessary clarifications/amendments being made, the updated shared care guideline was supported by the JPC.</p>
<p>Drug Safety Updates (DSU) and Patient Safety Alerts</p> <p><i>“Important safety updates”</i></p>	<p>The MHRA Drug Safety Updates for July, August and September 2017, were noted by the JPC for information. Some of the safety alerts (of specific interest to Primary Care) are highlighted below however please click on the links below to access the full documents.</p> <p>July 2017 DSU https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/632819/DSU-July_PDF.pdf</p> <p>August 2017 DSU https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/637656/DSU-August_PDF.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corticosteroids: risk of central serous chorioretinopathy with local as well as systemic administration. • Adrenaline auto-injectors: updated advice after European review – see p3. <p>September 2017 DSU https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/647375/DSU-Sept-pdf.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miconazole (Daktarin®): over-the-counter oral gel contraindicated in patients taking warfarin. • Loperamide (Imodium®): reports of serious cardiac adverse reactions with high doses of loperamide associated with abuse or misuse.
<p><u>SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIBING/COMMISSIONING ISSUES</u></p>	
<p>Biologic treatment for severe Rheumatoid Arthritis, Algorithm B.</p>	<p>An update to the treatment algorithm was approved by the JPC.</p>

"Updated algorithm agreed"	
Psoriatic Arthritis Pathway "Pathway agreed"	The JPC considered and supported the pathway which had been produced as a result of a request by local Rheumatology specialists. The pathway outlines which agents are commissioned, what order they can be used and information on switching criteria.
Additional Papers/issues considered by the Committee	
Infant Formulae Guidelines "Updated guidelines agreed"	The JPC ratified the updated guidelines.
JPC Terms of Reference "Update agreed"	The Terms of Reference have been updated as agreed at the last meeting to include GP membership from the Chiltern Vale Locality of BCCG.
Adrenaline Auto-injectors Update	<p>The MHRA has issued updated advice on the use of Adrenaline Auto-injectors after completion of the European Medicines Agency Review. https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/adrenaline-auto-injectors-updated-advice-after-european-review</p> <p>The MHRA advice document above is in line with and replaces the JPC bulletin on Adrenaline Auto-Injectors.</p> <p>In addition, the Department of Health has recently consulted on proposed amendments to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012: to allow schools to hold spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) without a named individual prescription, for use as emergency back-up to treat anaphylaxis in children registered by the school as being in receipt of a medical prescription for an AAI. As a result of the consultation the regulations have been amended and came into effect from 1 October 2017.</p>
NICE Guidance	
The Committee noted the following CCG Commissioned Technology Appraisal Guidance for implementation:-	
Ustekinumab for moderately to severely active Crohn's disease after previous treatment	
Technology appraisal guidance [TA456] Published date: 12 July 2017	
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta456	
Collagenase clostridium histolyticum for treating Dupuytren's contracture	
Technology appraisal guidance [TA459] Published date: 26 July 2017	
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta459	
The JPC has previously issued guidance on this which has been superseded by the NICE TA.	
Adalimumab and dexamethasone for treating non-infectious uveitis , Technology appraisal guidance [TA460] Published date: 26 July 2017, https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta460	
CCGs are responsible for funding the dexamethasone and this NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance will supersede current (negative) JPC Guidance. Adalimumab is the commissioning responsibility of NHSE and patients must be treated in NHSE accredited tertiary centres to obtain NHSE funding.	
Roflumilast for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	
Technology appraisal guidance [TA461] Published date: 26 July 2017, https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta461	
Roflumilast is not included in the COPD Guidelines because this treatment option will be initiated in secondary care, however the NICE TA will be added to the CCG Formulary.	

Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, raloxifene and strontium ranelate for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women

Technology appraisal guidance [TA160] Published date: 27 October 2008 Last updated: 09 August 2017

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta160>

Recommendations have been included in the update to the Osteoporosis Guideline.

Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate and teriparatide for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women

Technology appraisal guidance [TA161] Published date: 27 October 2008 Last updated: 09 August 2017

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta161>

Recommendations have been included in the update to the Osteoporosis Guideline.

Bisphosphonates for treating osteoporosis

Technology appraisal guidance [TA464] Published date: 09 August 2017

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta464>

Recommendations have been included in the update to the Osteoporosis Guideline.

Baricitinib for moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis

Technology appraisal guidance [TA466] Published date: 09 August 2017

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta466>

Methylnaltrexone bromide for treating opioid-induced constipation (terminated appraisal)

Technology appraisal [TA468] Published date: 23 August 2017

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta468>

Eluxadoline for treating irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhoea

Technology appraisal guidance [TA471] Published date: 30 August 2017

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta471>

Dimethyl fumarate for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.

Technology Appraisal [TA475]. Published date: 6th Sept 2017

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta475

Implementation of this Technology Appraisal Guidance is currently being discussed with Dermatologists. It is likely (tbc) that dimethyl fumarate will replace Fumaderm® (unlicensed similar preparation) in the psoriasis pathway, with current patients on Fumaderm® switching to the dimethyl fumarate preparation which is licensed. The psoriasis pathway will be updated to reflect this NICE TA after responses have been received from the local Dermatologists.

Website Access to JPC Documents:

The JPC papers from the meeting will be available shortly on the **GP Ref website**.

[http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/referrals/bedfordshire-and-luton-joint-prescribing-committee-\(jpc\).aspx](http://www.gpref.bedfordshire.nhs.uk/referrals/bedfordshire-and-luton-joint-prescribing-committee-(jpc).aspx)



TOP TIP for searching for relevant information on GP Ref:

To quickly find a document or guideline, click on link above, press control F and then type in a keyword e.g. denosumab and this will highlight all documents relating to denosumab within the JPC page.

While most papers are freely available, it is necessary to register with the site to obtain full access to all papers (historical documents, pre September 2012 are password protected). If you wish to receive copies of any of the more detailed documents flagged in the Newsletters (prior to information being available on the GP Ref site), please contact Jacqueline.clayton@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk or Sandra.McGroarty@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk

Use of Scriptswitch/Optimise Rx

Following on from discussions with GPs around communication of JPC advice, BCCG and LCCG are now adding messages to Scriptswitch and Optimise Rx to highlight when JPC guidance is available and including a hyperlink to the GP Ref website.

Comments are always welcome to Jacqueline.clayton@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk and sandra.mcgroarty@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk